

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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## NAMB's Hammond: prayer key to success

PORTLAND, Ore. (BP) — Churches that see the strongest evangelistic growth incorporate the traditional emphases of planned revivals — prayer, vibrant worship, and a focus on the lost — throughout the year, according to Thomas Hammond, director of church evangelism for the North American Mission Board (NAMB).

Hammond led a workshop on "Outreach: Keeping it Going" as part of NAMB's 1997 School of Evangelism, Sept. 16-19 in Portland.

The theme of the training conference was "Reaching Out To A Changing World." A variety of worship sessions and workshops were held, as well as practical training through two block parties and a door-to-door "saturation evangelism" opportunity. More than 50 people prayed to receive Christ as a result of the efforts.

Hammond noted when he was minister of evangelism at Hebron Church in suburban Atlanta, a church which often sees more than 500 baptisms each year, pastors would call and ask about the secrets of the church's evangelistic success. "It was as if there was some magic pill ... you could take and once you took it people were going to get saved," he said. He told them it was as simple as prayer, and a lot of it — something that apparently was not what many wanted to hear.

"We're good at planning and

good at preparing, but we stink at praying," Hammond said. "And you know why, it's spiritual warfare. When we really get serious, struggle to pray, the spiritual attacks come."

In too many churches, he said, concerted prayer has become almost a secondary activity reserved for Wednesday night, and then often focused on health problems in the church family.

"I'm not saying stop praying for the sick," Hammond said. "But you can pray for the sick

on and on and on and the world goes to hell."

In revival preparation, cottage prayer meetings and 'round-the-clock prayer' is common.

"It's just amazing how God stirs in our hearts when we're praying intentionally for souls and for revival," Hammond said. "Then Sunday morning gets here and there's an atmosphere of excitement. It's electric. The place is packed, so you get up there and you're looking at the congregation and they're singing and smiling and saying, 'God is here.'"

When individuals spend time on a regular basis praying with such intensity, Hammond said, it's not long before they've got to go out and talk to the people they've been praying for about their spiritual condition.

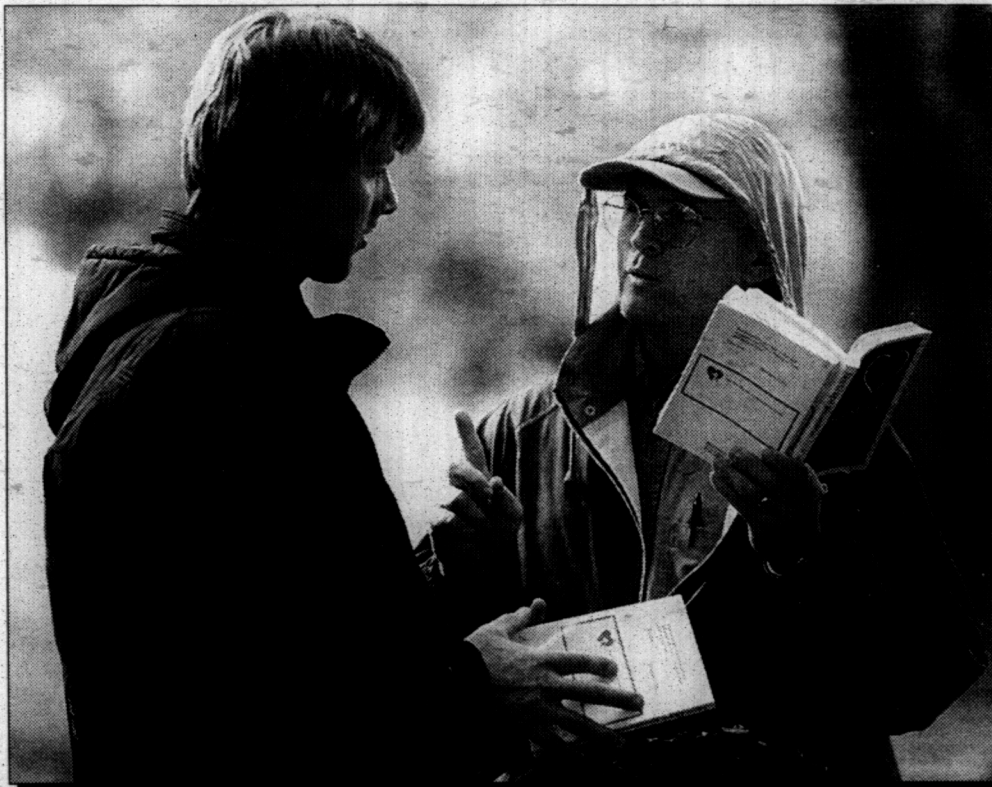
"If you get your folks praying for revival ... you won't have time to worry about any soul-winning program. There's going to be such a deluge of new converts that you're going to spend most of your time discipling these young babes," he said.

Through prayer, leaders also can be reminded evangelism is not a result of human efforts. Hammond used the illustration from the Gospel of John of Christ being the vine while we are merely the branches. "The vine brings everything needed for that branch to bear fruit," he said. "If I'm praying in such a way that there is no blockage, I am going to be bearing the fruit.

And if you're serious about it, people are going to be saved all over your church, and as a pastor you're not going to have a clue how."

Worship also must be vibrant and exciting, with preaching that both emphasizes the gospel and motivates members to be evangelistic throughout the week.

"Just like all that time and energy that went into planning that revival service, that's the same time and energy and planning that need to go into every worship service," Hammond said.



REACHING OUT — Greg Spears shares the gospel with a man during a block party in Portland, Ore., held as part of the Inner-City Evangelism conference. Spears is pastor of The Church in Midtown in Memphis, Tenn., a mission of Leawood Baptist Church. (BP photo by James Dotson)

### BJCPA inaugurates web site

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs (BJCPA) announced that it has completed an all-new web site that will provide background, context, and a Baptist perspective on church-state separation and religious liberty. The site, [www.erols.com/bjcpa/index.html](http://www.erols.com/bjcpa/index.html), contains official agency position statements on issues such as vouchers, prayer in schools, and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. It also contains speeches by executive director James Dunn and legal counsel J. Brent Walker; fact sheets on the Religious Equality Amendment; academic analysis of church-state separation and religious liberty issues; a religious freedom case list; and background information about the Baptist heritage of religious liberty.

In addition, the web site will provide on-line educational resources and academic papers concerning church-state separation and religious liberty. Users will be able to order videos, books, literature, and other materials on-line. This site is the number one source for religious liberty materials on the web and can provide professionals and lay persons alike with complete understanding of the traditional Baptist perspective on church-state separation and religious liberty, BJCPA said.

### WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

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### Looking back

#### 10 years ago

A total of 4,201 public decisions concerning personal relationships with Jesus Christ are made through Southern Baptist Centrifuge camps and church recreation conferences during the summer. At Centrifuge youth camps, a total of 4,073, or about 16% of participants, made public decisions.

#### 20 years ago

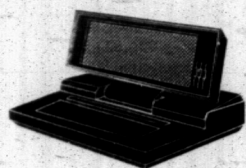
Grenada Association sponsors an interfaith witness awareness conference studying Mormonism. In the class taught by Lloyd Whyte of the Home Mission Board were 21 Baptists and three Mormons. The Mormons came to hear what Baptist had to say about them, they said.

#### 50 years ago

The second annual Baptist State Music Convention will meet in Jackson on Oct. 3-4 at First Church, Jackson, according to Luther A. Harrison, state music director. The convention theme is "Reaching the Multitude Through Music."



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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## Back to the future

Anyone who has made the decision knows it's a tough one. Everyone who has followed through on the decision knows the rewards of being home with their children.

For at least the last three decades, cultural pressure and financial demands have driven many families to the point that a two-income household is viewed as a necessity. Rising taxation, burgeoning inflation, and explosive increases in expenses have forced a lot of parents into the work force when they would rather be spending time at home with their children.

Mothers who choose to stay at home have been characterized as aimless and lacking self-esteem. Fathers who have chosen to stay at home (however few they be in number) are seen as unmanly and incapable of competing in the business world.

Our narcissistic society and all-powerful news/entertainment media have fueled the perception that stay-at-home parents are somehow stuck in a long-ago era, clinging to a discredited concept that only promoted unfairness and inequality.

The era may have indeed been unfair, but the concept is valid. More and more people seem to be arriving at that conclusion despite the near-constant barrage of media and celebrity criticism.

The Sept. 24 edition of *The Wall Street Journal* profiled Brenda Barnes, president and chief executive officer of the highly-profitable Pepsi-Cola North America subsidiary of PepsiCo, Inc. — one of the largest and most diversified corporations in America.

The newspaper reported that under Barnes' leadership, Pepsi-Cola North

America has captured 31% of their market, and its \$1.43 billion profit last year helped carry the larger company through a difficult time when other subsidiaries were losing money.

Barnes is likely the highest-ranking female executive in the country and a natural pick to succeed to the top job at PepsiCo, but that's not why she was in *The Wall Street Journal* on Sept. 24.

Barnes announced that she is stepping down after 22 years at PepsiCo to spend more time with her husband and three children (ages seven, eight and ten).

She described a challenging career that included extended travel and dinner meetings, missed birthdays, and even living in a separate city from her husband while they both pursued success in their careers.

Barnes made the tough decision.

"I have struggled with this for a long time," she said, adding that she had "made a lot of trade-offs... now I need to give my family more of my time," she said.

What? One of the most successful people in corporate America, with a limitless future in the business world, chucking it all for family? You read right.

"We pulled out all the stops we could think of — we had been grooming her for bigger things," said Craig Weatherup, Barnes' boss and PepsiCo's worldwide beverage chief.

Weatherup apparently didn't grasp that



Barnes was indeed going on to "bigger things." Although there was no indication in the newspaper article that Barnes is a Christian, she apparently possesses a concept of the importance of family that we Christians can certainly embrace (Gen 2:23-25, Deut. 4:9, Pro. 22:6, Mark 10:13-16).

In these ancient Bible ideas of family rest the future of our country. Our ancestors had some pretty good ideas when it came to family. Maybe we need to go back to some of those ideas as we plan our future.

## A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:



### General Lee and the SBC

By Carl M. White, Associate Editor

We received press releases recently that equated the Texas Baptists Effectiveness/Efficiency Committee proposal, to be considered at the Texas convention November 10-11, with the firing on Fort Sumter that occurred on April 12, 1860. As you may recall, the Fort Sumter action is considered the start of the Civil War. Some leaders believe the Texas proposal is, in essence, a secession from the Southern Baptist Convention. The Texans who are making the proposal say this is not so. They are simply doing what is best in the long run for Texas.

I'm not sure what to make of the proposals (see the Sept. 4 issue of *The Baptist Record* for details). However, many of the recommendations do sound like the kind of things a denomination does, not just a state convention.

Texas, however, is a bit different than your typical state convention. With the number of unchurched greater than the populations of 42 states, Texas is a virtual mission field unto itself. Or, as their ever-present tourism commercials state, Texas is a "whole other country."

SBC leaders in Nashville are talking about needing to devise ways of soliciting support directly from Texas churches, bypassing the state convention. Of course, you know what that would mean — the end of

Cooperative Program as we have known it.

In my opinion, if this is how the Executive Committee in Nashville reacts to Texas Baptists' proposal to do what is best for reaching Texas, that action will be like the firing on Fort Sumter, not the Effectiveness/Efficiency proposals.

At the time all this news came from Texas and some people started using words like "secession" and "the firing on Fort Sumter," I was reading Margaret Sanborn's wonderful two-volume biography of Robert E. Lee.

When South Carolina voted to be the first state to secede from the Union, Colonel Lee was stationed in Texas.

He had just received a copy of Everett's "Life of George Washington" from his son Rob and was reading it on December 19, 1860 when news of the secession vote reached him. A few days later, he wrote

to his wife, Mary Custis Lee, the great-granddaughter of George Washington: "How (Washington's) spirit would be grieved to see the wreck of his mighty labours."

Within days, Lee received an emergency summons to the War Department in Washington. All of the officers with him in Texas knew what the summons was about. Lee would be offered the command of all Union forces in the event of a war. The question was, what would Lee do?

Robert E. Lee was in a great dilemma. He was adamantly opposed to secession and slavery. He knew the destructiveness of war first hand from his experiences in Mexico. He was convinced a civil war would be long and bloody, lasting as long as 10 years, and that the South could not possibly win a drawn-out war, he wrote to his wife.

We know the rest of this story. Virginia voted to secede.

Lee turned down Lincoln's request to command the Union Army. Lee would organize, train, and eventually command the Army of Northern Virginia. The nation was torn by five years of terrible war.

Lee found himself in the midst of a conflict started because of issues he did not support, and compelled by a deeper commitment to defend his native Virginia from an invading force.

That invading force was the army he had spent his life serving, staffed with officers he had trained at West Point and that he dearly loved.

I understand how Lee must have felt. I fear there may be a terrible division coming, a division that should never have to happen. I suspect there are many pastors and Baptist lay persons who, like myself, don't want this to happen, did nothing to bring it about, and whose coming forces decisions about loyalties that no one should be forced to make.

In our nation's darkest hour voices of reason were drowned out by the hysterical voices of the abolitionist and secessionist. If our denomination's darkest hour is to come, will there be a voice of Christian reason that will prevent the "firing on Fort Sumter" from ever taking place?

Let's pray for it to be so.



# '97 College Student Conference packs church

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

Over 1000 college students from across the state gathered at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, on Sept. 26-27 for the 1997 College Student Conference.

Under the theme "If I Be Lifted Up..." students worshiped and were challenged to lift up Christ on their campuses during the 75th anniversary of the Baptist Student Union (BSU).

Recommendations for the 1997-1998 Student Missions Committee were approved, and a partnership relationship with the BSU ministry in the state of Colorado was inaugurated.

The program featured Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson, along with Debbie Wohler, a missionary serving at Lake Tahoe, California with the North American Mission Board.

Music was led by Mack and Shayla Blake, musicians from Ruston, La. Special dramatic sketches were presented by Doug Berky, a performing artist from Nashville.

In a business session, the students approved a summer missions budget of \$150,107, and adopted an overall plan to

send 125 BSU summer missionaries in 1998.

Jerry Merriman, MBCB Director of Student Work, said the Colorado student partnership is an effort to join the current MBCB partnership effort with Colorado Baptists through the MBCB Partnership Missions Office.

In an unrelated incident, a group of BSU students attending the conference were robbed at gunpoint on the evening of Sept. 26 while staying overnight at a local church.

There was relief and thanksgiving that no one was injured when an armed gunman robbed the BSU group from Mississippi State University (MSU), along with students from several other campuses, who were staying in the family Life Center of Alta Woods Church, Jackson.

"After eating pizza, the group had just prayed and were beginning to sing praise songs when a student came running into the room screaming that a masked man with a pistol was chasing after her," reported Ken Watkins, BSU director at MSU.

"The man, waving the pistol, ordered that we lie on the floor and throw our valuables — wallets and jewelry — onto a



**FULL HOUSE** — College students from across Mississippi hear Jerry Merriman (on stage), director of the MBCB Student Work Department, Sept. 27 during the 1997 College Student Conference at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton. (Photo by Carl M. White)

pool table," Watkins said. When this resulted in things being scattered, the gunman ordered a student to take off his shirt and bundle the things up.

"About this time he fired a shot at the floor to emphasize that he meant business," Watkins said. "Later we discovered that the bullet ricocheted into a framed picture on the wall.

"We didn't lose anything that couldn't be replaced," Watkins said.

The unidentified gunman was still at large on Sept. 30, according to police, who also said 25 people had reported being robbed during the incident.



**THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE**

**Record** THE BAPTIST

## WCC head placed on temporary leave

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

James W. Edwards, William Carey College (WCC) chancellor and chief executive officer, was placed on temporary leave of absence Sept. 29 after the school's trustees agreed to a \$345,666 settlement of allegations that the Edwards "falsely represented" information on a 1994 federal grant application.

"As board chair I direct that the faculty and staff will receive direction from Larry Kennedy, who is now functioning as temporary Chief Executive Officer of WCC in the absence of Jim Edwards who has been placed on temporary leave of absence," wrote WCC board of trustees chairman Ben Carlisle, pastor of Arlington Heights Church in Pascagoula, in a Sept. 29 memorandum written on WCC stationery and distributed to faculty, staff, and students.

Edwards, who was hired as WCC president in 1989, could not be reached for comment by press deadline.

Kennedy, WCC vice-president and dean of the Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies on the Baptist-affiliated school's Hattiesburg campus, has been serving as interim president since the June departure of Rory Lee, who left to accept the president's post at Baptist-affiliated Louisiana College in Pineville.

Carlisle pointed out that the problems arose from the way the original grant application was written and submitted, and he stressed that none of the grant money received by the college had been misappropriated.

Carlisle said the board of trustees and legal counsel are working prayerfully toward a conclusion that will best benefit faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

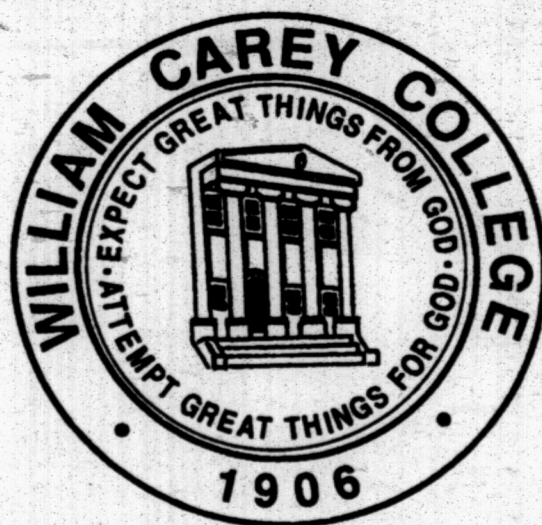
"WCC has the finest faculty and staff of dedicated Christians. Under Dr. Kennedy's

leadership, the board believes the school will be run effectively and morale restored.

"Mississippi Baptists can rest assured WCC will continue to fulfill its mission," Carlisle said.

Carlisle deferred further comment until after the school's trustees are able to gather for a discussion and also confer with legal counsel, probably within the next few days.

WCC, Edwards, and a consultant for the school will repay the \$345,366 to the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) to settle



federal claims of false representations on a 1994 Strengthening Institutions Program grant application.

Brad Pigott, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi who handled settlement negotiations for the federal government, identified the consultant as Barbara Jones of Senatobia.

Pigott said in a Sept. 26 press release that a two-year DOE investigation revealed Edwards "falsely represented" that:

◆ WCC academic programs and services were annually assessed and devel-

oped by a long-range planning committee, which in turn created a long-range strategic plan updated annually with input from all segments of the college community.

◆ governance of the college included a management and student information task force made up of specified members.

◆ a faculty development committee with named members had developed a strategy for faculty development on WCC campuses.

"The government's investigation revealed that all such representations were false, in that no such committees or task forces in fact existed," Pigott said.

Pigott also reported that in addition to repaying the specified amount under the settlement agreement, the school will not receive from DOE an additional \$983,534 scheduled for the remainder of the multi-year grant.

Pigott said he sought to recover the funds under the Federal False Claims Act "because of government officials' reliance on factual representations made by persons or institutions in an attempt to get public money, when it turns out that those representations were in fact false."

A Sept. 25 press release from Edward's office characterized the grant problems as "possible errors or inaccuracies" that were "immaterial and unintentional and that no college employee has committed any wrongful act."

According to the Sept. 25 press release from Edward's office, WCC agreed to repay \$126,289 over a four-and-a-half year period, while the college's insurance company will repay \$209,077 and consultant Jones will repay \$10,000.

WCC is one of three separate institutions of higher learning affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention. WCC has three campuses: Hattiesburg, the Gulf Coast, and New Orleans.

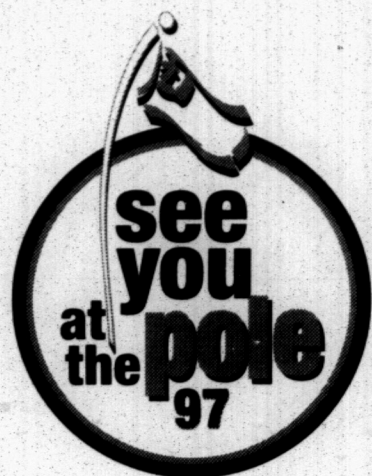
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## 1st, Columbus observes 165th anniversary

Jerry Merriman, Director of Student Work, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will be the guest speaker in the 6 p.m. worship service at First Church, Columbus, for the 165th Anniversary Celebration. Former Baptist Student Union (BSU) directors, Margaret McClellan Lewis, Betty Jeane Weeks Dowdle, Gail Elrod Moore, Nell Green Sanford, and present director, Nancy Aulds will participate in the service. An open house at the BSU Center will be held following worship services.

# 20,000 Mississippians seen at "Pole" Sept. 17

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

Over 20,000 Mississippi teens and adults gathered in the early morning of Sept. 17 for the seventh annual See You at the Pole (SYATP) prayer emphasis, according to Don Lum, youth consultant in the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Lum requested that churches or individuals across the state conduct a head count and telephone the results to the Evangelism Department, and a total of 179 schools or locations in 45 Mississippi counties reported results. The tally of participants stands at 20,491, Lum said.

SYATP began in 1990 as an emphasis of

the Baptist General Convention of Texas. In 1991 the effort gained broad support across the United States and other countries. The North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention (formerly the Home Mission Board) established an Internet site (www.syatp.org) to receive reports of SYATP and share anecdotal information.

Lum believes the SYATP event can be a catalyst for future evangelism and growth among teens in the state. "Praying together was a great beginning," he said, "but what do we do next?"

Lum suggested three actions for Christian teens. "First, continue to pray. Get together with some friends and pray at least weekly for your campus.

"Second, live in front of your friends a life

that honors God." By this Lum said he means being kind, honest, and having a servant attitude. "Be radically different from the average teenager in a positive way," he said.

"Third, say something about Jesus every day at school," Lum said. "Talk about what he has done for you, how he guides you and cares for you."

Lum suggests that if only one-half of the participants in this year's SYATP, or 10,000 students, would do these three things, God would move on public and private school campuses in a powerful way.

For more information or to report SYATP participation, contact Lum at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

## Garaywa adult lodge to expand camp's ministry

By 'Wilda Fancher  
Correspondent

Through the years every heart finds some special places, usually because of a person, an experience, a happening — often for us Christians because of a time of dedication to something special God called us to do.

If we asked every person in the world whose feet have walked through Mississippi Baptist life and whose hearts have tarried for a while in some Mississippi Baptist church to list his/her special places, literally thousands would list Camp Garaywa. That special place dreamed up in Miss Ed's heart and worked into reality by Mississippi Baptists who dreamed with her.

Folks sometimes say Garaywa is a Girls in Action (GA) camp, every year blessing a summer full of girls. The truth is, Garaywa blessings are year-round and unlimited by age or gender. From the very first year (fifty years ago in 1947) adults have gathered at Garaywa for training, teaching, inspiration, and dedication in a setting that has been built primarily to meet the needs of youth — a setting with top bunks and cabins without inside plumbing.

Yet adult after adult, like

child after child, and youth after youth, have made life-changing decisions at Garaywa. We will tell you about one or two of them in later features.

For a long time there has been a new dream going on in many hearts: a dream for another special place at Camp Garaywa, this one designed for use by adults as a self-contained retreat center. As a part of the celebration of the fiftieth birthday of Camp Garaywa, Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) decided to lead in building such a place.

Cherishing and respecting the autonomy of the local church, WMU leaders are providing suggestions to the WMU director in each church, asking that she adapt the suggestions to guide her WMU to participate in giving money for the Garaywa expansion within the framework of her church's financial structure.

It has been the happy experience of WMU leaders that so many people in Mississippi churches have been blessed by experiences at Camp Garaywa through the years, and, in turn, so many churches have been blessed by those who have attended Garaywa. We anticipate that same happy experience in this expansion.

Ground will be broken for this adult lodge, Patterson Place, named in honor of longtime WMU executive director Marjean Patterson, hopefully in the spring. Cost of the building and furnishings has been initially projected at about \$1.5 million. We need to receive \$1.1 million before we break ground. So far, \$587,000 has come in; another \$141,000 is pledged. When we can project that an additional \$512,000 will have come in, we can plan groundbreaking.

Plans are in place to borrow the remaining \$400,000, should the entire cost of the building not come in during the approximate year-long building process.

Joan Tyler of Collins is chair of "Hand in Hand Garaywa Expands," the process of helping Mississippi Baptists know how to be involved in the giving process. Planned and directed by David Michel, director of the Stewardship Department for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and stewardship consultant James Harrell, this process was launched during observance of Edwina Robinson WMU Special Day in May.

The Season of Prayer for

State Missions and the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering highlight September calendars in Mississippi Baptist churches each year. The goal for the 1997 Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering is \$748,000. All offerings above this goal will go into the lodge building fund.

William H. Perkins Jr., editor of The Baptist Record, is generously providing us special feature space to be used every three weeks or so to keep you updated on the progress of our, (yours and mine) newest Garaywa expansion. First thing you know, we'll be accepting reservations from some group in your church for a retreat at Patterson Place.

### EMPLOYMENT

**Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries has the following openings for employment:**

◆ Houseparent couple for Arkansas Baptist Home for Children  
Call Royce Aston at 870-367-5358

◆ Houseparent couple for Camden Emergency Shelter for Children  
Call Frank Martin at 870-862-0095

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16. Publication of Statement of Ownership: [X] Publication required. Will be printed in the 10-2-98 issue of this publication.

17. Signature and Title of Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: [Signature] Date: 9-25-97

18. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including multiple damages and civil penalties).

Instructions to Publishers:  
1. Complete and file one copy of this form with your postmaster annually on or before October 1. Keep a copy of the completed form for your records.  
2. In cases where the stockholder or security holder is a trustee, include in items 10 and 11 the name of the person or corporation for whom the trustee is acting. Also include the names and addresses of individuals who are stockholders who own or hold 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities of the publishing corporation. In item 11, if none, check box. Use block letters if more space is required.  
3. Be sure to furnish all circulation information called for in item 15. Free circulation must be shown in items 15d, e, and f.  
4. If the publication had second-class authorization as a general or requester publication, the Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation must be published. It must be printed in any issue in October or, if the publication is not published during October, the first issue printed after October.  
5. In item 16, indicate the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published.  
6. Item 17 must be signed.  
Failure to file or publish a statement of ownership may lead to suspension of second-class authorization.

PS Form 3526, September 1995 (Revise)

### The 10 Commandments of Sunday School Growth

(This is the last of a 7 part series of growth laws.)

**Law #10 — Keep Your Standards High.** Every pastor and church knows what the "ideal" Sunday School worker should be. A worker should be faithful in attendance, contact their members and prospects regularly, well prepared, allow the class freedom in discussing and applying the truths of the lesson, regular at weekly outreach, faithful to all church services, and positive about their church and pastor.

The problem is that there are never enough people who come close to meeting this ideal to fill all our worker needs. Pastors often feel the pressure to get somebody in the room just to fill a slot, and we will worry about what kind of job they will do later.

When Trinity was born 7 years ago we were only averaging 200 in Sunday School. Today we are averaging 1,500 in Sunday School and have over 200 teachers. Finding enough qualified workers is a nightmare. Often we have been tempted to take anyone who would say "yes." However, our commitment to providing a top notch Bible Study experience will not let us settle for less than the best.

We have found that people will commit to a cause they feel is important. They will respond if we explain exactly what is expected and provide them with the training they need. Praise the workers who are doing it right. Hold them up as the model for others to follow. Be honest about what is expected when you recruit each worker. There will be times we will fall short of our goal, but there should never be a time we lower our standards just to settle for what we can find. God gave His best, and so should we.



Dr. Jim Butler, Pastor  
Trinity Baptist Church  
Southaven, Mississippi



# North Delta distributing Christmas gifts

North Delta Association/Mississippi River Ministries, was chosen by the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham to participate with the Mission Friends "Christmas in August" projects. School and hygiene supplies have been collected by Mission Friends, as well as GAs, RAs — often entire churches — and sent to the association where they are being distributed through the

schools to very needy children.

So far, over 100 cases of materials from 22 states and Japan have been received. The project was promoted through Start, the leaders magazine for Mission Friends published by Woman's Missionary Union. The response has been overwhelming and supplies are still coming in, a spokeswoman said.

M. C. Johnson, Director of Missions for North Delta Association and coordinator of

the project for the area, said, "We are going to try to get into every elementary and junior high school in the association, and perhaps even in high schools. We are delivering cases of crayons, pencils, scissors, paste, rulers, construction paper, note books, note book paper, filefolders, erasers, coloring books, and books for the children. Response from the schools and the children has been full of gratitude. The second phase of the project will be to see that every needy child has a tooth brush, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, wash cloth, towel and comb."

Johnson also said, "Through

the same project, many cases of items have been sent to the Crisis Pregnancy Center for that part of the ministry."

One teacher cried when materials were delivered to the school. She said she had spent \$50 of her own money for supplies the first two weeks of school, but could not continue to do it.

Johnson said, "I have never seen appreciation expressed in such a way as we have the past few weeks. This has opened the doors for us to go in and talk with them about God's love and explain just who Mission Friends are, as well as the fact that Christians provided the

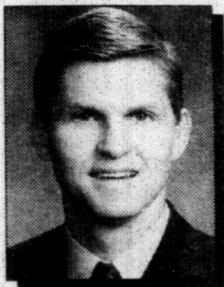


Rev. M. C. Johnson, Director of Missions for North Delta Baptist Association and Mrs. Dorothy Hite, WMU Director. (BR special photo)

## Miss. CBF sets meeting

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) of Mississippi will hold a Fall Gathering on Oct. 10-11 at Northside Church, Clinton. The event will be keyed by Gary Parker, coordinator for Baptist principles at the CBF national office in Atlanta.

"The Baptist Adventure" will begin at 7 p.m. on Oct. 10, featuring intergenerational



Parker

groupings designed to turn Baptist history into productions of music, Scripture, and historical reenactments. Parker will also speak at that session.

Registration will open at 9:30 a.m. on Oct. 11, followed by a "group-building" activity and then a worship service at 11 a.m. featuring Parker and the Chancel Choir of Northside Church, Clinton.

A \$6 per person catered lunch will be available at noon on Oct. 11. A business session will be conducted after the luncheon, and new Mississippi CBF coordinator Bradley Pope will be installed at a 1:30 p.m. service. The Fall Gathering is scheduled to adjourn at 2:30 p.m.

A nursery will be provided for preschool children on the evening of Oct. 10 and for the duration of the Saturday sessions. Activities for all children are planned for Oct. 11.

For more information, contact the Mississippi CBF office at (601) 355-7824.

## Bethlehem, observes 100th year

Revival services will be held Oct. 1-3 at 7 nightly with former pastors preaching. The 100th year Anniversary Celebration will be held Oct. 5. Activities include, Marvin Grubbs preaching, pot-luck dinner, and afternoon singing.

## Correction

In the historical highlights on page 7 of the Sept. 25 issue, the First State Baptist Student Convention should have been identified as having occurred at Woman's College and Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg. It was a reporter's error.



## 1998 WINTER BIBLE STUDY PREVIEW CLINIC

### Selected Parables from Luke



Frank Pollard



Ann Cannon

**DATE:** Tues., October 14, First Baptist Church, Jackson, Fellowship Hall West  
**TIME:** 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
**TEACHERS:** Frank Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, MS author of "Timely Answers to Key Questions" Ann Cannon, author, "Inquiring Minds"  
**LUNCH:** Complimentary of MBCB Sunday School Department  
\*Baptist Book Store will be available on site\*

**NO RESERVATION OR REGISTRATION FEE REQUIRED**

For more information, contact Larry Salter or Mark Lott, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Sunday School Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205; phone (800) 748-1651 or (601) 968-3800.

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## The Road to Everlasting Life

JESUS CHRIST  
EVERLASTING LIFE

God intends for all his children to live with him forever, but the road to everlasting life is blocked. To find that road you must:

**Admit that you are a sinner.**  
*There is none righteous, not even one. (Rom. 3:10)*

**Accept God's love for you.**  
*God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:8)*

**Acknowledge Christ as Lord.**  
*If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved. (Rom. 10:9)*

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Mississippi Baptist Church for spiritual guidance.

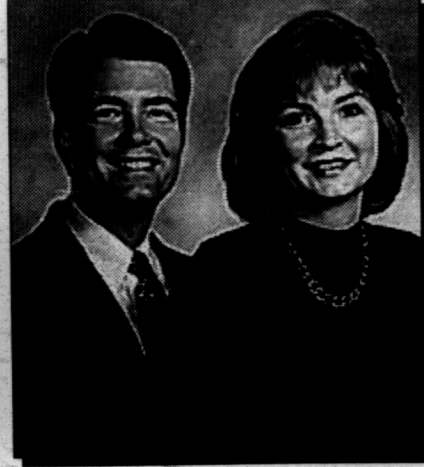
# Mississippians appointed IMB missionaries



Donahoe



Best



Carlton



Racey

RICHMOND, Va. — A number of Mississippians were among 58 people appointed by the International Mission Board Sept. 7 during a service at First Church in Dallas.

Troy Donahoe Jr. and Mary J. Albritton Donahoe have joined the nearly 4,200 Southern Baptist International Mission Board workers sharing Christ in 127 countries among 336 ethnic people groups.

As missionary associates the Donahoes will work in the Central and Eastern Europe region. This region is now requesting unprecedented numbers of missionaries to reach out to their peoples who have been denied access to the gospel for more than 70 years. He will start and develop churches and she will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Born and reared in Crystal Springs, Troy Donahoe is the son of Estelle Donahoe of that

city and the late Troy Donahoe. He considers Oak Grove Church, Shubuta, his home church. First Church, Brandon, also was influential in his Christian growth.

He received the associate of applied science degree from Hinds Community College in Raymond.

Born in Clarke County, Mary Donahoe is the daughter of Henrietta Albritton of Shubuta and the late Arthur Albritton. She grew up in Shubuta and considers it her hometown. She considers Oak Grove Church, Shubuta, her home church. First Church, Brandon, also was influential in her Christian growth.

Mark A. and Pamela S. Barber Best will live in Guatemala. Missionaries in Guatemala have made inroads to sharing the gospel through prison ministries and use of literature materials from the Baptist Spanish Publishing

House. He will start and develop churches and she will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Mark Best was previously minister of education and youth at First Church, Hazlehurst.

David W. and Pamela J. Shirley Carlton will live in Botswana. Baptists in Botswana minister through evangelism, student work, church planting and Bible Way Correspondence courses. He will work as a theological education director and she will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Since 1994, he has been pastor of Mount Zion Church, Brookhaven. He was also pastor of Fairview Church, Indianola.

Born in Jackson, Pamela Carlton is the daughter of Robert F. and Mavis Shirley of Madison.

Michael D. (Mike) and Annette Evans Racey will live

in Chile. The Baptist Convention of Chile focuses on evangelism, church planting, and leadership training. He will start and develop churches and she will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Since 1996 he has been operations manager for Evans Contract Carrier Inc. in Biloxi. They are members of Bay Vista Church, Biloxi, and were International Mission Board missionaries to Chile from 1984 to 1996.

Born and reared in Biloxi, Mike Racey is the son of Walter and Irma Racey of that city. He considers Bay Vista Church, Biloxi, his home church.

He received the bachelor of arts degree from William Carey College in Hattiesburg. Before his appointment he was pastor of Union Church, Seminary.

Born in Mobile, Ala., Annette Racey is the daughter of Clyde and Margaret Evans of Biloxi. She considers Biloxi her hometown and Bay Vista Church, Biloxi, her home church.

She attended Jones County Junior College in Ellisville and the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.

Shelia A. Flowers will work in the Western Pacific region. She will work as an administrative assistant in the regional office.

Born in Meridian, Miss., she is the daughter of Morgan and Marilyn Flowers of Sweet Water, Ala.

In 1996 International Mission Board missionaries helped lead 283,674 people to Christ and baptism. They and their overseas partners started 2,367 churches and reported a record 4.1 million members in 39,876 churches overseas.

With more than 15.4 million members, the Southern Baptist Convention is the largest evangelical denomination in the United States, and the International Mission Board is the largest evangelical missionary-sending agency.



Flowers

## Project earmarks funds for N. Korea

PYONGYANG, North Korea (BP) — Southern Baptists propose pumping up to \$5 million into North Korea during the next several years to help devastated farmland bloom again.

A long-range project being developed by the International Mission Board and Texas Baptists — under the watchful eye of North Korean officials — would not only bring new life to flat, salty paddies, but also would invigorate upland farming areas.

Flooding in recent years has raked off topsoil and dumped mounds of sand throughout North Korea. Much of the nation's fertile land has become useless. Drastically reduced yields from the most productive government farms have led to severe food shortages.

The crisis has caused alarm globally, but aid consultants from outside North Korea have been unable to determine its severity. Many aid experts fear the worst has not yet been seen and are calling for recognition of the crisis as a full-fledged famine.

North Korean officials have said they want to work with Southern Baptists partially because Southern Baptists promise only what they can do and then deliver on their promises, said Tom Williams, who leads International Mission Board work in the Western Pacific.

Southern Baptists will survey the area in a trip scheduled to begin Oct. 21. Among them will be International Mission Board worker Harold Watson. He is known by governments throughout Southeastern Asia as an expert in teaching people how to use homegrown technology to salvage eroded hillside farming areas

devoid of nutrients. Representing Texas Baptist Men on the survey team will be DeWayne Williams, a retired agriculturist and soil scientist who will take soil samples.

"It'll be a number of years before we can get the soil restored," said Tom Williams. "There's not a quick fix."

North Korean officials have asked Southern Baptists to begin working on about 100,000 acres of collective government farms in the country's central region around the capital city, Pyongyang.

"The land has deteriorated. There's a lot of salt content," Williams said. "Because of the flooding, a lot of topsoil has been washed away, and it doesn't have nutrients needed for healthy food production."

Southern Baptists have been working to alleviate effects of the famine for some time. They first sent food into the country in April 1996 and helped rescue one city by continuing food shipments to it.

Williams expects the project to lead to other avenues of ministry, such as educational and medical projects. Already the International Mission Board is working to recruit 10 Southern Baptist International Service Corps workers during each of the next three years to teach English at a university in the country.

Financial contributions to the North Korea project may be sent to North Korea Relief, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230. For further information about teaching opportunities in North Korea, interested persons may contact the International Mission Board at 1-800-789-GOYE.



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

October 2, 1997

HouseTops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Office of Communication**.

*Who Am I...*



*Through My  
Father's Eyes*

## Women's Enrichment Ministries Awareness Conference

Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson

October 24-25, 1997

*Enjoy an overnight retreat of spiritual refreshment as you learn about ministering to women in your church and equipping them for service. Learn about new ministries God is doing, led by national and state leaders in Women's Ministries.*

**Cost: \$17**

(includes lunch, program materials, and insurance)

**After October 3, 1997: \$25**

All fees received after Oct. 3 are non-refundable but are transferable.

For more information and a registration form, contact Edna M. Ellison, WMU at 800/748-1651 or 601/968-3800.

## MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

IN CONCERT

Bruce Zelger, conductor

*Come enjoy an evening of uplifting music performed by some of the finest musicians in the state. Encourage everyone in your church to attend because there is no cost for this wonderful concert.*

Alta Woods Baptist Church, Jackson

October 5, 1997

## 1997 Youth Ministers' Conference

October 20-22, 1997

Lake Tiak O'Khata

Louisville, Miss.

### DEVOTIONALS

Jeffrey Clark, pastor  
FBC, Hattiesburg

### GENERAL SESSIONS

Allen Jackson, assistant  
professor of youth education, New  
Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

### MUSIC

David Parker, professional musician  
DP Ministries, Carrollton, Tex.

### SESSIONS FOR WIVES

Dottie Hudson, family counselor  
FBC, Jackson

### GENERAL SESSIONS

Richard Ross, consultant for  
youth ministry  
Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville

For further information and a reservation form, contact the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800 in Jackson.

For reservations call or write Lake Tiak O'Khata, P.O. Box 160, Louisville, MS 39339, (toll-free 1-888-845-6151).



## PATTERSON PLACE – a conference center for adults

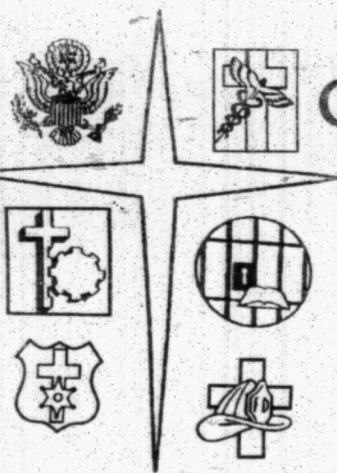
to be built soon at Camp Garaywa, Clinton, Miss.

Believing that the mightiest force for harmony, peace, obedience, and accomplishment is prayer, Mississippi WMU leadership requests that you join us in prayer every day for this new adventure.

Suggested beginning places for our praying are listed below for each day of the month. Begin again on the first day of the month, and pray again, adding any facet of the Garaywa expansion that you wish each day. Everyone listed is involved in or touched by the building of the lodge. Every level of Baptist leadership is represented. If questions come to your mind, call 800/748-1651, ask for WMU, and find answers.

Thank you for being part of this special prayer experience.

- |    |  |    |   |
|----|--|----|---|
| 1  | For the Building Committee, Dell Scoper, chairman  | 17 | For the missionaries around the world who were blessed at Garaywa                                       |
| 2  | For Hand in Hand Garaywa Expands, Joan Tyler, chairman   | 18 | For adults in your church who were blessed at Garaywa   |
| 3  | For Marjean Patterson, executive director, Mississippi WMU   | 19 | For Rebecca Williams, president of Mississippi WMU  |
| 4  | For Larry Sones, Brandon, architect  | 20 | For Roberta Johnston, vice-president, and Kay Hodge, secretary  |
| 5  | For Paul Jackson, Brookhaven, building contractor  | 21 | For leadership in the nine areas of Mississippi WMU   |
| 6  | For the On-Site Committee, Lydia Jones, chairman   | 22 | For your associational WMU director   |
| 7  | For your WMU director as she leads your church to give   | 23 | For your director of associational missions   |
| 8  | For Ground-breaking Committee, Martha Ellen Marler, chairman   | 24 | For your pastor and other staff members   |
| 9  | For the safety of every person who works on the lodge  | 25 | For Bill Causey, executive director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and his assistant, Gene Dobbs |
| 10 | For Policy-Personnel Committee of Mississippi WMU Executive Board as they write policy for use of the lodge and help with logistics of implementing the policy | 26 | For the Camp Committee of Mississippi WMU   |
| 11 | For David Michel and James Harrell, Stewardship Department leaders in planning and implementing fund-raising   | 27 | For the safety of groups at Garaywa during construction   |
| 12 | For leaders in your church to support this project   | 28 | For Bob Dent, camp manager, and his staff   |
| 13 | For leaders in your church to plan to use the lodge  | 29 | For residents on the streets into Garaywa   |
| 14 | For proper personnel to be available to manage the lodge   | 30 | For Barri Shirley, director of accounting and personnel services at the Baptist Building, and his staff |
| 15 | For the Finance Committee, Sue Tatum, chairman   | 31 | For your state WMU staff  |
| 16 | For the Interior/Furnishings Committee, Sharon Neff, chairman  |    |   |



### Mississippi Baptist Chaplains Association

Annual Fall Banquet

Tuesday, October 28, 1997  
Baptist Building – Skyroom  
4:45 p.m.

#### SPEAKER

Joe Bob Mizzell

Alabama Baptist State Convention  
Assistant to the executive secretary

and director of Christian Life, Public Affairs and Chaplaincy



#### MUSIC

Cathy Taylor, support staff of Woman's Missionary Union, MBCB, and a member of Hillcrest Baptist Church, Jackson, where her husband is pastor

For more information or to make reservations, contact Elaine Smith, Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at 601/968-3800 or toll-free at 800/748-1651.

## Queen's Court

Camp Garaywa November 14-15, 1997  
Friday 5 p.m. – Saturday Lunch

For Acteens Involved in StudiAct  
(Queen Level and Above)

\$23 per person

(includes meals, lodging, crafts and limited insurance)

What to Bring: sheets or sleeping bag, pillowcases, towels, casual clothes, comfortable shoes, Bible, paper and pencil, personal items

Registration Deadline: Friday, November 7, 1997

Registration Form – Queen's Court

Church \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Person sending in registration \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people \_\_\_\_\_ x \$23 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to WMU

Mail to: WMU – Queen's Court

P O Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530



## 1998 State Singles Retreat

*"Celebrating the Single's Journey"*

May 23-25

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Conference Highlights

*Saturday, May 23*

Kick-off rally at 4 p.m. featuring a Christian band leading in worship with praise and contemporary music.

Special Conferences:

*"When God Speaks"*

*"Living In the Spirit"*

*"Journey to One"* written and led by Gwen Williams, a single from New Orleans (known as Ms. Chocolate)

*"The Joyful Journey"* (humor)

Much more, including:

Sunday morning - Vision (a drama team), Biloxi

Sunday journeys and activities

Sunday evening concert by Kindred Heart

Free T-shirts if registered by May 1

Seafood banquet

New Sunday adventures

*Make plans now to attend!*

## CAMPUS DAYS FOR GAS AND ACTEENS

Blue Mountain College

November 15

11 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

William Carey College

January 17

3 p.m.-7 p.m.

Mississippi College

February 21

11 a.m.-3 p.m.

*Missionaries • Basketball • Testimonies  
Cheerleaders • Music*

**Cost \$7.50**

*(Includes: basketball game, meal, program and limited insurance)*

For more information, contact the  
WMU Department at 800/748-1651 or  
968-3800 in Jackson.

## "Come Go With Me"

**GA Mother/Daughter Overnight**  
*for grades 1-6*

**October 17-18, 1997**

*(Friday at 4 p.m. until noon, Saturday)*



**Registration: \$23 per person**

**Deadline: Monday, October 13, 1997**

*(No refunds after deadline - Substitutions permitted)*

Mother's name \_\_\_\_\_ Child's name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W)

Church Name \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$23 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (total enclosed)

Make checks payable to **Mississippi Baptist Convention Board**

Send to: WMU - Mother/Daughter Overnight

P O Box 530

Jackson, MS 39205-0530



# Pray this day for...

October 3-16, 1997

Prayer Ministry Office • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

## Four Reasons God Answers Prayer

- (1) The prayer acknowledges God.
- (2) The prayer is supported by the intercession of Jesus and because of His priesthood.
- (3) The prayer is supported by the intercession of the Holy Spirit.
- (4) The prayer comes from one who is related to God and Christ.

- Prayer Life by T.W. Hunt and Catherine Walker

For Soul Winning Commitment Day (EVANG)  
A church in Tokyo which ministers to the homeless recently baptized 248 men and two women. Ninety more desire believer's baptism. Give thanks to God, and pray that this awakening will spread.

World Hunger Day (CAC)  
Every year there are about 18 million deaths from hunger and hunger related diseases. Pray for relief for the hungry and for workers to bring them the relief they need.

For most Cambodians, life is a daily struggle for survival. Pray that every Cambodian will be safe from war and other dangers, have enough to eat each day and adequate shelter. Pray also that they will recognize the one Creator God as the provider of these necessities of life.

Pray that believers Frans Kemenye & Moses Tololi will find new ways of reaching the many unreached people groups who live in the Katatura township of Windhoek, Namibia. Frans leads Grace Baptist Church in Katatura and Moses began a church there among the Litchazi people.

For Church Related Vocations Banquet; Mississippi College (CAPM)  
Pray that all young people will seek God's guidance as they make decisions about their life work.

For Winter Bible Study Preview; FBC, Jackson(SS)  
For State Quartet/Ensemble Festivals; North Greenwood BC, Greenwood/Parkway BC, Clinton (CM)

Give thanks to the Lord that the young Laotian evangelist who was imprisoned in July has been released! From the time of his imprisonment until the day of his release, the number of professing believers in his village tripled.

Lilly of the Valley Baptist Church in Lima, Peru, recently held "out-door services" on Sunday night, moving pews out to the street. The neighbors asked them to do it more often, so they now have one Sunday night a month outside. Pray that they will be able to touch many more lives through this new endeavor.

Pray for new believers among the Khmu people in Laos to grow in faith and exercise wisdom and maturity when sharing their faith with others. Pray for spiritual fruit to result as they live out their faith among their families and friends.

For Student Day at the Baptist Building (CAPM)

For State Quartet/Ensemble Festival; FBC, Hattiesburg (CM)

Norman & Gunita Harrell, church planters in the Western Algarve area of Portugal, have been seeking a meeting place for the Lagos Mission. The building they have been meeting in has been put up for sale. Give thanks to the Lord that the Portuguese Baptist Convention has tentatively approved a loan for this mission.

For Women on Mission Retreat; Camp Lake Stephens, Oxford (WMU)

For Mississippi Baptist Conference of the Deaf; Camp Garaywa (MEAA)

Recently a tribal leader from northeastern Bangladesh invited our Baptist representatives to come and share the gospel with his people. Pray that the Holy Spirit will move in a mighty way as the gospel is shared.

Many radio listener groups in Laos have formed in recent days as gospel program are broadcast. Pray that the listeners will accept Christ and that a church will be established among these listeners. Pray that national Christian leaders will emerge from these listeners.

## NOVEMBER



- 1-74 MR. KEITH LEECH, P O Box 4587, Clinton, MS 39058  
Parents: Marvin & Linda, Theological Education; SERVE IN INDONESIA
- 1-93 MISS CAITLYN BRASWELL, Caixa Postal 61  
89.802-970 Chapeco, SC, BRAZIL  
Parents: Larry & Alicia, General Evangelism
- 3-77 MR. WILLIAM DRUMMOND, WCC Box 1128, Hattiesburg, MS 39401  
Parents: Samuel & Margaret, Theological Education; SERVE IN SPAIN
- 4-81 MISS LUCY M. GRAVES, Casilla 1417, Concepcion, CHILE  
Parents: Eddie & Marilyn, General Evangelism
- 4-94 MISS ALICIA MARTIN, 105 Billy Byrd Avenue, Clinton, MS 39056  
Parents: William & Cynthia, General Evangelism; SERVE IN BOLIVIA
- 5-85 MISS BETHANY G. FORTENBERRY, 3147 Monroe Road, Ellisville, MS 39437  
Parents: Robert & Margaret, General Evangelism; SERVE IN BOTSWANA
- 8-91 MR. JACOB S. LIGHTSEY, VIP SAL #731, P O Box 52-5364, Miami, FL 33152-5364  
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- 16-86 MR. NATHANIEL D. CARLISLE, 5284 Charles City Road, Richmond, VA 23231  
Parents: Jason & Susan, General Evangelism; SERVE IN URUGUAY
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Parents: Kenneth & Ruth, Financial Administration
- 21-79 MR. WESLEY A. JOHNSON, 1-15-1 Momochi, Sawara-ku, Fukuoka-shi 814, JAPAN  
Parents: Dave & Robin, University Education
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Missouri Baptist Convention  
"Heavenly Sunlight Singers"-Parkway BC,  
Clinton

R. L. & Beth Sigrest, Yazoo City

### Retreat III - May 28-30

Ray Wells, senior adult consultant,  
Louisiana Baptist Convention  
Marcus Peagler, Madison

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# HOUSE TOPS



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



**Center Hill Church, Hamilton,** held a dedication service for their renovated sanctuary on August 10. The renovation consisted of additional choir space, camera and monitor system, sound system, VCR projector, and increased seating capacity. Donnie Irvin served as building chairman; James M. Towery, is pastor.



**Carterville, Petal,** held a GA recognition service on August 24. There was a total of 44 girls receiving Missions Adventure badges.

**The Mississippi State Fair Praise Productions, Inc.** and the Praise Singers will present The Praise Festival, Oct. 1-12 at the Gospel Pavillion building #19, at the Fairgrounds. Service times are Sunday worship, 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.; Saturday, 1:00 p.m.; and weekdays, 6:00 p.m.

**First Church, Jackson,** will host a recovery workshop entitled *Beginning Again...Life After Divorce and Death* for seven consecutive Thursday evenings beginning Oct. 2 continuing through Nov. 13. The workshop will feature helpful teachings and discussions on subjects related to the loss of a spouse through divorce or death. Additionally, there will be Kidshare, a support group for

children in grades 3-6, and *Healing the Wounds*, a support group for teenagers, offered for children who have experienced the divorce of parents. The registration fee is \$20 which includes materials. Advanced registration and additional information is available by calling the Single Adult Ministry at (601) 949-1906.

**West Ellisville Church, Ellisville,** will present the musical "God with us" Sunday Oct. 5 at 7:00 p.m. Dwight L. Smith is pastor and McKay Pearce is minister of music and education.



**Concord Church, McCall Creek,** held a dedication service for the new pastor's home. Pictured are (left to right), Donna Cowart; Charles Meyers; Jimmie Burrs; Millard Case; Mrs. James Case; James Case, pastor; and Wayne Johnson.



**East Columbia, Columbia,** celebrated its first formal GA Coronation service in over 25 years. Eleven girls completed Mission Adventure Level 1 and Level 2. The GA leaders are Tammy Smith, Teresa Seals, Jeannie Gilbert, and Geneice Turnage.

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# Study: ministers earning less, giving more

CAROL STREAM, Ill. (ABP) — Ministers are paid substantially lower compared to other professions, tend to be generous with their money and are in debt, according to a recent study published in Leadership magazine.

According to the report, published in the magazine's Spring 1997 edition and summarized in the Sept. 1 Christianity Today, the median salary for pastors is about \$33,000. That compares to average or median salaries in other fields such as \$100,000 for a director of engineering, \$96,229 for school superintendent, \$97,000 for manufacturing vice-president and \$160,000 for top executive for a non-profit organization.

The majority of pastors (60%) earn between \$25,000 and \$49,999. Three percent indicated their salary was \$75,000 or more.

The study found that 13% of ministers moonlight to supplement their income. While almost

half said they do not feel financially content, 70% of pastors said they rarely or never feel resentful about lack of money.

Almost two-thirds of pastors said their family tithes before taxes. Including those who give away 10% after taxes, the figure jumped to 76%. Only 35%, however, said they preach that their

congregations should tithe.

More than half of pastors said they pay off their credit-card balances each month. For those who carry a balance, the median credit-card debt is about \$3,000, half as much as the average American's outstanding balance of \$5,800.

Ninety percent of pastors in

the survey said it is appropriate for a pastor to ask for a raise, but 63% of those who feel financially discontented have never done so. Of those who have asked for a raise, only 13% said they didn't get one.

Nearly 40% of pastors said their churches do not have a policy for even cost-of-living raises.

## BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

An exhibit of recent works by Carey on the Coast Art Faculty will be on display in the Lucile Parker Gallery on the Hattiesburg campus of William Carey College from Oct. 2-31. An opening reception honoring Ted Rose, Arthur Williams, and Talle Johnson will be held Oct. 2 from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

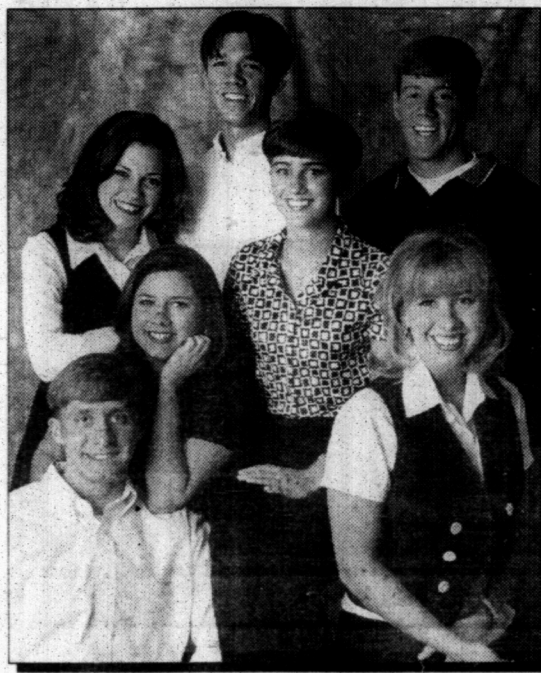
John Meadors, assistant professor in the Department of Christian Studies and Philosophy at Mississippi College, has been named the 1997 Arts and Sciences Distinguished Lecturer. Meador's lecture entitled "Can Virtue Be Taught?" will be presented on Monday, Oct. 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hall of Fame Room of the B.C. Rogers Student Center. The lecture is free and open to the general public. For additional information, call 925-3218.

Priority, from Mississippi College Baptist Student Union is available for the 1997-98 school year. The members include Erin Barkley, Carrie Buckley, Thad Burkhalter, Elizabeth Carter, Jason Holmes, Chad Parker, and

Mandy Windham. For concert and booking information contact Steven Smith at 925-3238.

The Blue Mountain College Baptist Student Union has chosen its three fine arts teams for the 1997-98 school year.

Reflections is an ensemble of eight singers and a sound man that travels to church and leads worship services. David Foley is director. King's Troupe is a group of students that seek to share the gospel of Christ through drama, skits, and interpretive movements. David Humphrey is director. Lara Plunk, a student at Blue Mountain, leads the clown team. All three teams are available for worship services, youth rallies, lock-ins, and various other ministries. Contact Tracy Moser at (601) 685-4771 ext. 37 for information



Priority on booking these groups.

## Mt. Olive, Okolona sets 125th

Mt. Olive Church, Okolona, will celebrate its 125th anniversary on Oct. 5 beginning at 10:30 a.m. followed by a covered dish dinner on the grounds. The program will include the recognition of present and former members, pastors, and pastors' wives. The guest speaker

will be Charles A. Jolly, Seattle, Wash., with a special presentation of the 125th Anniversary Certificate and Letter of Commendation to the Church by Edward L. McMillan, executive Secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission. Fred N. Jolly is pastor.

## HOMEcomings

**Courtland Church, (Panola):** Oct. 5; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11:00 a.m.; covered dish lunch; afternoon singing; Courtney Selvy, director of missions, Panola Association, guest speaker.

**Weathersby Church, Mendenhall:** Oct. 5; Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.; worship 11:00 a.m.; covered dish lunch in fellowship hall at noon; Foy Killingsworth, pastor, speaker; Deana Williamson, Mendenhall, music.

**Topeka (Lawrence):** Oct. 5; Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.; worship, 11:00 a.m.; lunch following morning services; afternoon singing, 1:30 p.m.; Mike Reid, speaker; Dale Authement, pastor.

**Damascus, Flora:** Oct. 12; Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.; worship, 11:00 a.m.; dinner following morning worship services;

William E. (Sonny) Bradshaw, preaching; J.B. Sherman, Yazoo City, music.

**Southern Hills, Jackson:** Oct. 5; services 10:30 a.m.; dinner on the grounds following morning worship; no evening services; Steve Smith, speaker.

**First, Florence:** Oct. 5; services, 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.; dinner on the grounds, 11:30 a.m.

**Mt. Pisgah, Enid:** Oct. 12; worship, 11:00 a.m.; covered

dish luncheon, noon; afternoon entertainment, 1:15 p.m.; David Crowe, guest speaker; Howard Armstrong, pastor.

**Harrisville, (Simpson):** Oct. 12; services, 10:00 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall, 11:30 a.m.; Mark Sandifer, Jackson, guest speaker; Raymond Ball, Madison, music; Donnie South, Pastor.

**Mt. Vernon, West:** Oct. 19; basket lunch at noon; Earl Ezell, Greenville, preaching; Joe Styron, music.

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**SEEKING PART-TIME YOUTH Minister/Director.** Hurricane Creek Baptist Church, 247 Hurricane Creek Church Rd., Sandy Hook, MS 39478. Attention: Linda Thomas 736-3544.

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## JUST FOR THE RECORD



**North Oxford Church, Oxford**, recently organized "Kids for Christ" Community Outreach Ministry. Volunteers picked children up from the local housing projects and brought them to the Bible club every Tuesday evening in July for a time of singing, arts and crafts, games, and Bible study.



A mission team from **Spring Creek, Philadelphia**, recently spent a week in Silverton, Colo., conducting day camps for children. Pictured are (bottom row, left to right), Wayne King, pastor; Gladys King; Mandy Watkins; Brenda Watkins; (second row, left to right), Brandi Parker; Bonnie Watkins; (third row, left to right), Libby Cherry; William Cherry; Lenny Miles; (back row), Nolan Watkins.

## STAFF CHANGES

**Spring Hill, Waterford**, has called **Larry West** of Jackson, Tenn., as interim pastor effective June 29. West received his education from Crichton Bible College in Memphis, Tenn.

**Union, Picayune**, has called **Ron Harrison** of Columbus as

associate pastor effective August 1. His previous place of service was pastor of Bethel Church, Columbus. Harrison received his education from Blue Mountain College and New Orleans Seminary.

**Hurricane Creek, Sandy Hook**, has called **Mack Strange** as pastor effective Oct. 5. A native of Pascagoula, Strange is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was First Church, Newellton, La.

**New Sight, Brookhaven**, has called **Johnny Sykes** as pastor. Sykes and his wife Donna have three children, Hannah, 6; Monica, 5; and

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## REVIVAL DATES

**New Zion Church, Crystal Springs:** October 5-8; services 7 p.m.; Horace Ross, L.C. Hoff, John Thomas, Billy Riley, and G.A. McCarty, Campers on Mission, evangelists; Pat Bufkin, interim pastor.

**Jericho Church, Baldwin:** Oct. 5-9; Sunday services, 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 6:30 p.m.; Charles Smith, evangelist; Andy Russell, music; special preservice music each service featuring Abundant Life, Sounds of Joy, Master's Quartet, Friends Again, and First Church, Baldwin, Group.

**Shady Grove, Hazlehurst:** Oct. 12-15; Sunday, 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:00 p.m.; Buddy Keys, Laurel, evangelist; Buddy McElroy, music; Hal Hatten, pastor.

**First, Eudora:** Oct. 12-15; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:00 p.m.; John Bramlett, Memphis, Tenn., evan-

gelist; Larry Rowsey, Hernando, music; Steve Albonetti, pastor.

**First, Byhalia:** Oct. 12-17; Sunday, 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:00 p.m.; Thad Moore, evangelist; Tommy Gillon, music; Glenn Bien, pastor.

**Goodyear, Picayune:** Oct. 12-15; Sunday, 11:00 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:00 p.m.; Charles Sullivan, executive director-treasurer, Indiana Baptist Convention Board, Indianapolis, Ind., evangelist; Ronnie Cottingham, Agricola, music, Arlis Grice, pastor.

**Thrasher (Prentiss):** Oct. 12-16; services, 7:00 p.m. nightly; Kara Blackard, speaker.

**Maybank, Hattiesburg:** Oct. 12-15; Sunday, Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.; worship, 10:00 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:00 p.m. nightly; Robert Perry, Brookhaven, evangelist; Bob Robinson, pastor; Jerry Purvis, minister of music.

**Carmel, Meridian:** Oct. 12-15; Sunday services, 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. 7:00 p.m.; Roc Collins, Hattiesburg, evangelist; Chris Lee, Meridian, music; Chip Starnes, pastor.

**Friendship, Aberdeen:** Oct. 12-15; Sunday, 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:00 p.m.; Jimmy Millikin, professor, Mid-America Seminary, Memphis, Tenn., evangelist; Wayne Baggett, Decatur, Ala., music. Todd Bowen, pastor.

**First, Florence:** Oct. 5-8; Sunday, 6:00 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., lunch served at 11:40; services at noon and 7:00 p.m.; James Fancher, interim pastor, speaker; R.L. and Beth Sigrest, Yazoo City, music.

**Conehatta (Newton):** Oct. 5-8; Sunday 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.; Mon. - Fri., 7:00 p.m.; Tim Fanguy, evangelist; John Alumbaugh, music.

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## LIFE AND WORK

### Be reconcilers

2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2

By Geneva England

Elizabeth Eliot's incredible ministry of reconciliation occurred when she befriended the Aucan Indians of Ecuador who had brutally killed five missionaries, her husband included. Elizabeth, with her young daughter and an Aucan woman risked their lives offering friendship, Christian love, and Christ to this head-shrinking tribe. Through her pioneer efforts, the Aucans today have peace with themselves and outsiders.

Our call to be reconcilers may not be as dramatic nor as successful as Elizabeth's; nonetheless, it is needed in our jungle-like world of hate.

**Motivation (5:11-15).** Paul had zealously fought against

the cause of Christ before his conversion experience on the Damascus Road; afterward, he even more zealously tried to persuade men about the love of Christ who "died for all" (15). He explained that "an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands," (5:1 NIV) awaits believers at death.

Four factors motivated Paul to minister day and night. First, "all" believers will appear before the judgment seat of Christ to receive rewards for their good deeds. Second, "all" sinners are dead (v.14) prior to their belief in Christ as Savior and Lord. Third, the "terror of the Lord," (meaning reverential fear and respect) compelled



England

Paul because he didn't want to displease God (v.11). Fourth, the "love of Christ constrained" (v.14) him to work without ceasing.

These same reasons should motivate us. Our heartfelt reply should be, "Yes, Lord, I'll do whatever you want me to do."

Everyone can't be a missionary, but God has given us some talent we should use for his glory. For some, being an encourager is their special talent; for others, the voice, the hands, the feet, etc. Whatever talent God gave you should be used enthusiastically for the Lord.

**Message (5:16-19).** Verses 16-19 address reconciliation. To reconcile means "to change" or "to be brought from enmity to friendship with God." Enmity is defined in Romans 8:7 as "The sinful mind is enmity against God." Because sin separates man from God, some provision is necessary for man to

move from Point A (totally sinful) to Point B (totally sinless). This occurred through the cross when Christ "having slain the enmity," created one new man reconciled to God (Eph. 2:15-16). "For by grace are ye saved through faith...not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8-9).

**Ministry (5:20-6:2).** Christians are privileged and responsible for sharing the gospel message with the lost. Remember, as a believer, you are the recipient of someone's ministry. Jesus, having purchased through his death, burial, and resurrection salvation for all who believe, sent his messengers into the world — to Jews and Gentiles alike. The first converts became Christ's ambassadors. Ambassadors must possess a minimum of three qualifications: child of God, willingness to serve, and spiritual knowledge. Ambassadors are admonished to "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a

workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15).

**Ministry (5:20-6:2).** What a wonderful message to carry: a sinless Savior dying to pay the sinners debt so that they may receive the imputed righteousness of God.

Are you grateful enough for this gift? Have you thanked God for your position in Christ? We so often forget the great sacrifice Christ made for us.

Jesus's greatest commandment is "love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind and with all thy strength," and his second, "love thy neighbor as thyself." These involve two kinds of reconciliation. First, we must be reconciled to God by having a right standing with him. Second, we must reconcile ourselves with others, living in love and harmony as a demonstration of our love for Christ.

England is a member of First Church, Grenada.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Judgement and hope

Genesis 6-9

By Jason Bird

The ancient literature of many societies give an account of a great flood destroying the earth. Yet, God inspired only one account and it, therefore, is the only reliable authority of the events that took place. This account is the story of Noah recorded in our passage of study.

**Depths of Human Sin (6:5).** Three phrases reflect the depth of sin prevalent on the earth in the days of Noah: "every inclination," "only evil" and "all the time." When God looked upon what had become of his wonderful creation, he saw a picture of total depravity. The resulting society

was completely godless. This didn't happen overnight. Rather, it was the consequence of generations of spiritual neglect, going back to Cain and, ultimately, Adam. Just as God had held these men accountable for their acts of disobedience, the time came when God responded to the wickedness of the men of Noah's day also.

**God's Response To Sin (6:6-7).** When God responds to sin, he does not do so out of anger. The destruction of the world did not come in a fit of rage. Instead, we see God's heart was broken over the sinfulness of man. God had given his very best for mankind



Bird

to enjoy on this earth, yet they still would not give their hearts to him. Just as Adam had chosen to ignore the bounty of the garden for the supposed benefit of disobeying God, so had the generations which followed. Mankind had rejected God's expressions of love.

Even today, there are those who reject all of God's blessings and choose to live outside of his will. And, just as it did in the days of Noah, such a decision breaks God's heart.

**A Man Who Walked With God (6:8-9).** Noah stood in stark contrast to the wickedness of the men around him. Out of all the people on the earth, only he found favor in the eyes of God. His legacy is that of a righteous man blameless among his peers. Noah's life exemplified completeness and wholeness.

He found contentment in serving God and chose to do so even when no one else did.

God today looks for those willing to stand for him in a godless society. It is difficult to stand when you feel all alone in your resolve, but, as Noah's experience shows, God's way is always the best way.

**Deliverance From Judgement (6:18-19; 8:16-17).** God told Noah of His plans to destroy the world and how he would start over again with the survivors on the ark. Time and again, the scriptures record Noah's faith and obedience by proclaiming, "Noah did everything just as God commanded him." Because of Noah's faith in God, God established a covenant with him. The covenant promised God's protection for him and his family in the destruction to come.

Those who have faith in God

and remain obedient to him have no fear of impending judgement. Because of God's covenant that he established through Jesus Christ, believers are spared the judgement they deserve because of their sins.

**A Covenant With God (9:11-13).** After the floodwaters receded, God made another covenant. This one was not just for Noah, but for all of humanity. The term of the covenant was that he would never again destroy the earth with water. The sign of the covenant was the rainbow he placed in the sky.

Whenever believers see rainbows today, we should be reminded of the faithfulness of God. The flood account tells of God's judgement and mercy: his judgement on sin and his mercy for those who respond to him in faith.

Bird is pastor, 15th Avenue Church, Meridian.

## FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

### Refuse to compromise

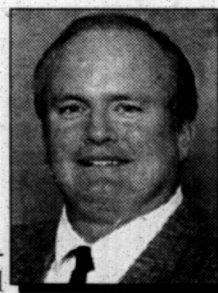
Daniel 1

By Wayne VanHorn

Daniel 1:1-2 provides the background for today's lesson. The "third year of the reign of Jehoiakim" in which Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem was 605 B.C. The Bible reveals that the Hebrew people were subjected frequently to the rule of foreign nations like Egypt, Assyria, Babylon (Nebuchadnezzar's nation), Persia, Greece, and Rome. The issue to remember about this particular episode is that the events gave Daniel and his friends the opportunity to succeed but only by compromising their faith.

**Unusual Opportunity (1:3-5).** Daniel and his friends were

part of a group of brilliant and talented young men who were selected to take part in a special, three year educational program to prepare them for the king's service. They were to receive "royal" treatment including a menu fit for a king (1:5). These young men had to excel in both physical appearance and mental capacity (1:4). For Daniel and his friends, the opportunity meant the difference between serving in the royal court with its attendant benefits or remaining slaves in exile. Circumstantially this was an opportunity for these young men to improve their lot in life. The importance of this opportunity can be seen in the fact



VanHorn

that the king worked directly with his chief official or eunuch, Ashpenaz, to direct the process (1:3).

**Unwavering Purpose (1:8a).** Great opportunities are also occasions for great compromise. Sometimes the reward seems so great that personal convictions are set

aside for the sake of upward mobility. Daniel's devotion to God was stronger than any lure of worldly gain. The king's diet apparently violated Hebrew dietary laws. Daniel "made up his mind" to remain pure. The Hebrew Bible literally reads "Daniel set his heart not to pollute himself." Daniel's actions were preceded by his personal dedication to do what he knew to be right. After all, "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and to lose his own soul?" (Luke 9:25).

**Unassuming Request (1:8b-10).** How do you turn conviction

into action? Daniel recognized his inferior status. He was in no position to demand anything. He "sought permission" (NASB) from the chief official (1:8b). Daniel's life before God insured that God would act on his behalf as is confirmed in 1:9. In response to Daniel's request, the chief official informed Daniel that he could lose his head if Daniel and his friends appeared defective after the period of preparation (1:10).

**Unbiased Negotiation (1:11-14).** Daniel wisely suggested that the official put him and his friends on a diet of vegetables and water for a period of ten days. Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, known best by their slave names Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (1:6-7), were apparently willful participants in the experiment (1:11-12). The official would have the liberty to take any course of action he saw fit if after ten days Daniel and his friends did not measure up

(1:13). Daniel negotiated for what he needed, a kosher diet, while alleviating the fears of the king's official. Ten days was long enough for the official to see what would happen, but short enough to reinstate the "royal diet" if necessary.

**Uncommon Results (1:15-16).** Daniel trusted the Lord in the matter of his diet. After just ten days, the official could see that Daniel and his friends looked "better" than the other young men. Therefore, he permitted them to remain on their diet for the duration of the three years. This episode in Daniel's life illustrates the principle that you do not need to compromise your beliefs in order to succeed. Indeed, when principles are compromised, the ultimate result is failure not success. Christians can learn to live by their principles while working under the demands of non-believers.

VanHorn is pastor, First Church, Columbia.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW

## The Baptist Children's Village



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive  
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A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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# Mississippian named to SBC committee

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP and ABP)—Two study committees — one on the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting that includes a Mississippian, the other on the SBC's relationship to Baptist World Alliance (BWA) — were named during the Sept. 23 meeting of the SBC Executive Committee.

Named to the five-member SBC annual meeting committee were three Executive Committee members: Reuel May Jr., a dentist from Jackson; Forrest E. Lowry III, pastor from Spring, Texas, who will chair the study; and Frank Cox, pastor from the Atlanta area and current president of the Georgia Baptist Convention. The other two members are former chairmen of the SBC Committee on Order of Business, Jim Richards, an Arkansas director of missions, and Danny Watters, Douglasville, Ga., pastor.

The SBC annual meeting committee was appointed as a follow-up step to Executive Committee action last February in response to a request from the SBC Committee on Order of Business for the Executive Committee chairman to name such a study committee.

In addition, the 1997 Committee on Order of Business was to develop a list

of suggestions for improving convention sessions, according to the Executive Committee action in February.

Concerning the Baptist World Alliance ad hoc study committee, SBC President Tom Elliff issued a statement Sept. 23 noting reasons he called for the committee's creation.

"Over the years the SBC has enjoyed a positive and encouraging relationship with the Baptist World Alliance. The BWA sometimes lends credibility to the Baptist witness in countries which might otherwise deny the opportunity for a significant presence. This is especially helpful for smaller Baptist conventions in developing countries or countries where Christian organizations are looked on with suspicion.

"Recently, however, questions have arisen regarding perceived changes in the mission, focus, and doctrinal positions of the BWA," Elliff continued. "Since Southern Baptists give a significant amount to the BWA through our Cooperative Program (\$417,838 for the 1997-98 fiscal year), good stewardship requires that we be fully aware and in accord with their objectives, doctrinal positions and operational procedures. It is in response to these concerns that I asked Dr. James Merritt, chairman of the SBC Executive

Committee, to appoint a study group to meet with representatives of the BWA so that we might assess the manner in which we should support their work in the coming years."

Named to chair the eight-member Baptist World Alliance ad hoc study committee was Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the Executive Committee. The committee's other members are Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.; Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board; James T. Draper Jr., president of the Baptist Sunday School Board; Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in North Carolina; and three members of the Executive Committee: Joe Reynolds, a Houston attorney; Gary Smith, pastor from Arlington, Texas; and Bob Sorrell, associate pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, suburban Memphis, Tenn.

Two new media initiatives were approved by the Executive Committee: a new monthly flagship publication of the North American Mission Board, to be titled, "On Mission Magazine," and a listener-supported weekday radio program by the Ethics and Religious Liberty Committee, "For Faith & Family."

In other business, Executive Committee President Morris Chapman called increased giving by churches through the Cooperative Program unified budget "a sign of good health" for the SBC but raised concern about declines in the percentage of gifts that local churches and state conventions forward to national and international ministries.

"Perhaps the most devastating news about our health," Chapman said, is a decline in

nationwide baptisms, despite record giving amounts.

Baptisms exceeded 429,000 in 1958-59, Chapman said. In 1995-96, despite \$412 million given through the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptist churches managed to baptize only 379,344.

"Our health is not everything we would want it to be," Chapman said. "Until we get a passion, we'll not see this change."

SBC President Tom Elliff attributed such statistical decline to "the law of the harvest."

"I cannot help but think we are reaping some of the sins we have sown in the past, especially when I see the decline of the number of baptisms," said Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, Okla.

He called for Southern Baptist preachers who emphasize expository preaching, view the ministry as a calling rather than a profession, lead lives that are "spiritually consistent" and emphasize "doctrine, doctrine."

"We as Southern Baptists have so much for which we ought to be thankful," Elliff said. "God has taken a dinosaur by the tail and turned it around. God has caused a great ship to change course in the middle of the sea when it was adrift."

A Cooperative Program work group tabled discussion on a referred motion that would create a new track in the SBC's unified budget. The new option would allow churches to send money directly to the Executive Committee to be split 50 percent with the SBC and 50 percent to a state entity designated by the church. The proposal will be considered at the Executive Committee's next meeting, Feb. 16-18.



## LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

*My sons, ages nine and 13, constantly yell at each other. I'm afraid their anger will go too far and they'll hurt themselves.*

This is the nature of sibling rivalry — two young males vying for attention, power, control, and position within the family unit. Such behavior is inherent. Since they have not yet learned the discipline of compromise and negotiation, they are using their voices and sometimes their body strength to assert their individuality. As a parent, you must help them learn the fine art of problem solving. Appropriate questions to ask are: "What is it that you want? What can we do to work this out for both of you?" This moves you away from being merely a fact-gatherer who only wants to find out who did what to whom. The desired outcome is to convince your children that problem solving can lead to a "win-win" situation for both of them. Our society increasingly promotes aggressiveness and encourages power

assertion. Your Christian parenting will show them that they can overcome their impulses by staying focused on Jesus. Learning to control one's power is the mark of a great person; he/she will be able to accomplish many goals.

I have received many letters of late seeking information on how to handle an affair in a marriage. An excellent resource is "Torn Asunder: Recovering from Extramarital Affairs" by Dave Carder. Carder helps the reader identify an affair, understand the causes that brought on the affair, and get on with life after an affair. The book is written from a Christian perspective, and is filled with Scripture and assurances for both the adulterer and the unsuspecting partner. There are plenty of real-life cases, tests, and worksheets that add to the effectiveness of this book. Pick it up and use it as a resource.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

## Bibliocipher

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FNBV DWKB SVB WVT  
FSRT FNBK, HWQOVC,  
ZBNSRT, FNB KBV ANSK  
QB GXF OV GYOHVS  
WYB HFWVTOVC OV FNB  
FBKGRB, WVT FBWD-  
NOVC FNB GBDGRB.

WDFH LOPB:

FABVFQ-LOPB

Clue: G equals P

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Five Thirty.

## NAMB taps chaplains, bringing total to 2,518

ATLANTA (BP) — Twenty-eight chaplains were endorsed by the North American Mission Board (NAMB) Sept. 14, bringing the total number of Southern Baptist chaplains to 2,518, serving in 27 countries and all states and territories of the United States.

The service was held at First Church, Peachtree City in suburban Atlanta.

The NAMB, which officially began work in June, was formed by combining the Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, and Radio and Television Commission in the SBC's "Covenant for a New Century" restructuring.

"I have learned not to tell God things I will never do," said Maurice DeFoor, a new

chaplain serving the South Carolina department of corrections at Allentown Correctional Institution in Ulmer. "I told God I would never be a prison chaplain, but here I am."

First Lt. Paige Heard, an army chaplain serving in Ft. Hood, Texas, echoed DeFoor's sentiment. "God will call you to a place where you aren't comfortable. I get airsick, and I'm serving a helicopter battalion."

In addition to institutions and the military, chaplains serve in health-care and pastoral counseling roles as well as business and industrial settings.

For more information on the chaplaincy program, contact the NAMB ministry evangelism office in Atlanta at (770) 410-6492.